



# Phipps' Tips for Hiring a Green Landscaper

Utilize this document when hiring a landscaper to make sure that you are receiving top-notch service that is healthy for you, your family and our environment.

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape Professional Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes No

<b>I have attended Phipps' Sustainable Landscape Practices course.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscapers who have attended this Phipps training are familiar with many aspects of healthy landscaping. You can find the complete list of course graduates here: <a href="http://www.PhippsSafeLawn.org">www.PhippsSafeLawn.org</a>		
<b>I am adequately insured and can provide references.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is also important to ask what certifications your landscaper has to make sure they are up to date with industry best practices.		
<b>I will not use any pesticide without owner's approval beforehand.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
With patience, many pest populations are kept in check by natural predators. Pesticides may kill these beneficial predators, pollute our environment, and can be dangerous to human health.		
<b>I will only use targeted organic pesticides with prior approval by owner.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
While organically approved pesticides are generally safer than their non-organic counterparts – they still need to be used with caution. Have your landscaper explain the risks associated with any pesticide application, and restrict use to targeted pest in targeted areas.		
<b>I will not use inorganic 'weed and feed' or any other broadcast treatment that contains an inorganic fertilizer, herbicide or insecticide.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using broadcast inorganic weed and feed applications puts synthetic fertilizer and potential toxins onto your lawn where you, your children and your pets play. This may pose potential health threats to your family, and to stream life when rain washes these chemicals into our waterways.		
<b>I will perform a soil test.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil tests are inexpensive and can tell you a lot about your soil. Pay particular attention to the test's recommended amendments, the pH, and the level of organic matter. Keep a copy for yourself for reference.		
<b>I will seek out site-appropriate, disease-resistant plants.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant selection should balance beauty with durability. Phipps publishes a yearly list of its recommended Top Ten Sustainable Plants. To read those lists and find local nurseries that carry the plants, visit: <a href="http://www.PhippsSafeLawn.org">www.PhippsSafeLawn.org</a>		
<b>I have someone on staff that can identify weeds, pests and diseases.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proper identification is the <i>critical</i> first step toward avoiding the use of herbicides and pesticides. You should know who their ID expert is and where they received their training.		
<b>I will only use fertilizers that are organic and only as much as actually needed.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organic fertilizers (e.g. cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal, soybean meal, etc.) tend to break down slowly in the soil, providing a steady source of nutrients. Synthetic fertilizers tend to be quick acting. Excess fertilizers, especially nitrogen, run off into our waterways—leaving the soil depleted and our bodies of water with nitrogen overloads.		
<b>I will use soil amendments that come from easily renewable sources.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High-quality compost is full of beneficial organisms and improves the structure of the soil. Mushroom manure is another locally available, renewable soil amendment. Avoid using amendments like peat moss and top soil which cannot be easily replenished in our lifetimes.		
<b>I will perform preventative measures to guard against weeds and pests.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Putting down 3-4 inches of mulch early in the spring in your garden beds, removing infected plants, choosing disease resistant plants, cleaning up garden debris each fall, and doing regular pest scouting are five easy ways to prevent outbreaks in your garden.		

Landscaper Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_